

## United States Senate

Dear Colleague:

More than 100 days ago, President Obama rolled out an Executive Order for his Administration to conduct a thorough review of the nation's regulatory framework. The President's rhetoric doesn't match reality.

The Administration's own cost estimates for the 280 proposed or enacted regulations this year is over \$29.4 billion with even broader economic costs on our economy.

A few facts:

- In 2010, federal agencies issued 3,573 final rules.
- Proposed rules in the Federal Register have surged from 2,044 in 2009 to 2,439 in 2010, a jump of 19.3 percent.
- Of the 4,225 rules now in the regulatory pipeline, 224 are "economically significant" meaning they wield at least \$100 million in economic impact—this is an increase of 22 percent over 2009.

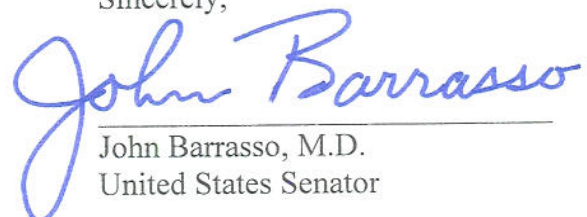
The most recent independent study on the total annual regulatory compliance costs hit \$1.75 trillion. This "hidden tax" stands at an astonishing 50.7 percent of total federal spending levels. According to the Center for Fiscal Accountability, the average American had to work 74 days each year to pay for the cost of government regulation.

Additional federal regulation slows down our economic recovery while creating uncertainty for American workers. The burden on the engine of job creation in America – small business – is even more troublesome. Small businesses spend an estimated \$10,500 per employee on federal regulations.

I trust you will find the attached document, "Ten Thousand Commandments," from the Competitive Enterprise Institute useful to you. As the author of the report states, "The dramatic fact of regulations and deficits – now exceeding \$1 trillion a year – is an unsettling new development for America."

If you have any questions, or would like additional copies of "Ten Thousand Commandments," please contact Ryan Taylor at 4-7183. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator